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AMBLE URBAN DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1962

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AND
SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1962

To the Chairman and Members of the Amble Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my third Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the district for the year 1962.

During the year there was a considerable increase in the number of births - there being 128 compared with 97 in 1961, which gives a very much higher birth rate than normal.

The numbers of stillbirths, neo-natal and infant deaths are all much lower than the previous year, giving correspondingly low rates for the year in question. These year to year variations, however, are not of great significance as the total numbers involved are comparatively small. Regrettably, there was one maternal death during the year. There was an increase in the death rate for 1962. However, the pattern which has become established over the years was again followed in that over half the deaths were due to cardio-vascular lesions and nearly a quarter were due to malignant conditions.

During 1962 there was a sizeable epidemic of dysentery which lingered on for several months. The majority of cases occurred in children, and quite a few were traced to one particular school. The sanitary facilities in this school are typical of many of the older type of schools and are, of course, not ideal. The drains were blocked on one or two occasions, and many of the cases occurred about this time. A considerable number of notifications occurred from families living in property which was considered insanitary and overcrowded. Fortunately, the epidemic ceased in the latter months of the year.

The immunisation rate in the urban district was satisfactory. The majority of young children are now protected against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough and poliomyelitis at an early age. The vaccination rate against smallpox, whilst not as high as that of the other diseases, is nevertheless fairly good. It will be recalled that early in 1962 a number of cases of smallpox occurred in the United Kingdom. This resulted in an increased demand for vaccination and the number of revaccinations, i.e. those performed on adults, showed a very great increase on the previous year.

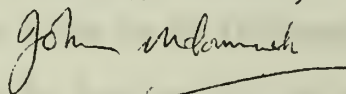
I am indebted to Mr. Rodgett for his report for the year under consideration. Many interesting facts emerge from this. It is noted that no new houses were

completed in 1962, although building schemes were started and several houses were completed in the early part of 1963. These houses, however, were all for sale and did not tackle the problem of rehousing a great many families who are not in a position to buy their own homes. It is most satisfactory to observe a steady increase in the number of Discretionary Grants awarded during the year, although the number of Standard Grants was very low. The Surveyor's suggestion that one of the houses improved should be open to the public before and after alterations seems to be a very good one, and one which I hope the Council will consider. There is no doubt that Improvement Grants are the only solution to raising overall housing standards in any district faced with large numbers of old houses lacking in modern amenities.

A Ministry of Housing and Local Government circular in 1962 made it quite clear to all concerned that considerable efforts are expected in improving existing sub-standard property, by means of the various grants available. It is thus most satisfactory that a survey of Ambleside housing has been undertaken to determine the extent of this problem. The Surveyor's preliminary figures of houses lacking standard amenities give an indication of the effort that will be needed. Health and housing are so interdependent that I hope the Council will accept the challenge of persuading and helping owners to deal with the 180 unfit houses so far enumerated.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their interest, and members of the Council staff for their continued help and co-operation during the year.

I am,
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,



Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL STATISTICS

The area of the district was 1,220 acres.

The number of inhabited houses was 1,668 and the number of new houses completed during the year was 7.

The rateable value was £43,446 and the sum represented by a penny rate was £180.

The estimated mid-year population was 4,920 and this figure was taken when calculating the birth and death rate.

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	56	70	126
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
Totals	<u>57</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>128</u>

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population	26.01
Crude Birth Rate multiplied by Comparability Factor	27.83
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	1.56

Stillbirths

Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
Totals	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	15.38
Total live and still births	130

Infant Deaths (deaths under one year)

Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Totals	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	7.81
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	7.93
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-

Neo-natal Mortality Rate

Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Totals	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births	7.81
---	------

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate

Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Totals	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births	-
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Perinatal Mortality Rate

Stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births	15.38
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Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of deaths	1
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	7.69

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	36	31	67
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the population			13.61
Crude Death Rate multiplied by Comparability Factor			14.29
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis			1
Deaths from Other Puerperal Causes			-
Deaths from Cancer			17

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	-	-	-
Tuberculosis (Other)	-	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	3	1	4
" " Lung, Bronchus	-	-	-
" " Breast	-	1	1
" " Uterus	-	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	6	11
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	-	-
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	5	9	14
Coronary Disease, Angina	8	7	15
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	-	1
Other Heart Disease	1	2	3
Other Circulatory Disease	1	-	1
Influenza	-	-	-
Pneumonia	1	-	1
Bronchitis	3	2	5
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	-	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	-	-	-
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	-	2
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	1	1
Congenital Malformations	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	-	4
Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	-	-
All Other Accidents	-	1	1
Suicide	-	-	-
Homicide and Operations of War	-	-	-
Totals	<u>36</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>67</u>

INFANT MORTALITY

<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Place of Death</u>
Spina Bifida	7 days	Hillcrest Maternity Hospital, Alnwick.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever	-
Whooping Cough	-
Diphtheria	-
Measles	-
Pneumonia	-
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	-
Enteric Fever	-
Erysipelas	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-
Dysentery	116
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-
Smallpox	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-
Food Poisoning	-
Encephalitis	-

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-15	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-45	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
45-65	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATIONNorth No. 1 and 2 Areas

The following table shows the number of persons vaccinated against poliomyelitis during the year ended 31st December, 1962.

			<u>Number of Persons</u>
Two Injections	-	Salk Vaccine	608
Third Booster	-	Salk Vaccine	470
Fourth Booster	-	Salk Vaccine	85
Three Doses	-	Oral Vaccine	915
Booster dose oral after two Salk injections			1,495
Booster dose oral after three Salk injections			583

SMALLPOX VACCINATIONNorth No. 2 Area

Number Vaccinated during Period							Number Re-vaccinated						
	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over	Total	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over	Total	
Alnwick U.D.	82	6	7	19	60	174	-	-	7	37	188	232	
Alnwick R.D.	119	10	5	22	57	213	-	1	7	68	282	358	
Amble U.D.	61	6	16	27	41	151	-	-	-	6	36	42	
Rothbury R.D.	56	10	9	21	16	112	1	-	3	38	143	190	
Totals	318	32	37	89	174	650	1	1	22	149	649	822	

IMMUNISATION

Primary Immunisation									Secondary (Reinforcing) Injections								
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5/9	10/14	Total	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5/9	10/14	Total	
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	38	-	47	
Diphtheria and Tetanus	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	-	2	-	-	2	8	-	12	
Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus	80	12	-	2	1	2	-	97	-	11	17	7	10	17	-	62	
Totals	81	12	-	2	1	4	-	100	-	13	17	7	21	63	-	121	

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY REPORTSResultsThroat Swabs

Haemolytic streptococci	41
Coagulase positive staphylococci	8
Streptococcus viridans	1
	50
Negative	35
Total number of specimens taken	85

Other Specimens

B. Coli	1
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THE SURVEYOR'S & PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

DR. J. McCORMACK, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

SURVEYOR, PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR & WATER ENGINEER.

MR. J.A. RODGETT, M.A.P.H.I. (appointed 16.4.62)

ASSISTANT SURVEYOR AND
CARAVAN SITE MANAGER.

MR. A. E. NICHOLSON, L.M.R.S.H.

CLERK/TYPIST.

MISS D. GALLAUGHER.

Council Offices,
AMBLE.

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1962.

The year was an eventful one in many respects, a year of planning for the future prosperity of Amble as a holiday resort, for the improvement of the natural assets as a residential district and for the attraction of industry.

During the year, a policy of dealing with slum clearance and house improvement was adopted which will show results in this sphere in the next year or two. Work on 38 houses for sale was started and the first of these were near completion by the end of the year. Planning for future council house building was started which will relieve the house waiting list to a considerable extent. Further developments were carried out at the Quarry and Bay View and a development at West Avenue was started by private developers both of which would prove to be pleasant housing developments. Improvements were made to a number of shop fronts in Queen Street, improving the appearance of the shopping centre and I hope others will follow. The Council started work (by Contract) on a bus shelter in Church Street which will enhance the appearance of the area and relieve the congestion at this point. The caravan sites were as popular as ever.

The report sets out some of the work accomplished during the year on the surveying side and also on the Health Conditions of the District.

I take this opportunity to thank the Council for their encouragement and interest which has been responsible for the department being able to work in an atmosphere conducive to enthusiastic accomplishment of the Council's policies and routine work also the staff for their hard work and loyal support.

HOUSING.STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1962.

New Houses Completed during the year.	With State Assistance.	Unaided	Total.
(a) By Local Authority	-	-	-
(b) By any other Housing Authority.	-	-	-
(c) By private persons.	-	7	7

Total number of inhabited Houses in District 1668

Total number of houses owned by Local Authority. 309

ACTION WITH REGARD TO UNFIT HOUSES.

<u>Closing and Demolition</u>	<u>No. of Houses.</u>
1. Houses demolished in Clearance Areas.	-
2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas.	-
3. Houses closed, not demolished.	2
4. Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included in above.	4

Repairs.Houses Made Fit.

5. By informal action.	12
6. By owners following statutory notice.	-
7. By Local Authority in default of owners.	-
8. Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction.	-

Houses Patched.

9. Houses in clearance areas still in use at end of year for temporary accommodation.	-
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IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958,as amended byHouse Purchase and Housing Act, 1959,andHousing Act, 1961.A. DISCRETIONARY GRANTS.No. of separate houses

(1) Applications submitted to Local Authority during the year.	37
(2) Applications rejected.	6
(3) Applications approved.	31
(4) Approximate average grant per house.	£299
(5) Total number of houses approved for grant in the area since inception of the scheme.	168

B. STANDARD GRANTS.

	<u>During the</u> <u>Year</u>	<u>Total to</u> <u>Date</u>
(1) Number of separate houses for which grants have been made.	2	2
(2) Number of houses provided with Inside Water Closets.	2	2

A. DISCRETIONARY GRANTS.

As given in the above statistical table, thirty-seven properties were the subject of applications received during the year. Applications for six properties were not approved as the proposals were considered not suitable to render the houses in all respect fit for a period of thirty years.

The thirty-one applications approved were composed of seventeen owner/occupied properties and fourteen tenanted properties. This is a more balanced proportion of owner/occupied properties and tenanted properties than in previous years but I feel that there are still many properties both owner/occupied and tenanted which ideally lend themselves for improvement.

Circular 29/62 issued by the Ministry of Housing & Local Government answered many queries that had arisen in the past, particularly in relation to internal W.C.'s and improvements to property incorporating small business premises.

Circular 42/62 made it very clear to all local authorities that the improvement of houses was to be thoroughly tackled, if necessary on a street-by-street basis and where owners would not or could not co-operate, compulsory powers of purchase by the authority would be considered by the Minister.

I would recommend that one of the houses to be acquired and Improved by the Council be opened to the public to show "before" and "after" improvements. This would enable property owners to see what could be accomplished by grant and the Surveyor's Staff would be only too willing to advise and explain all the provisions of the Act.

B. STANDARD GRANTS.

Interest in Standard Grants became more pronounced during the year and although the two completed may appear small in number, from visits made to properties and advice given thereon, it is hoped that 1963 will show a considerable increase in the number of applications.

HOUSING.

A physical survey was carried out towards the end of the year with the object of ascertaining the number of unfit and substandard houses in the district and to formulate a policy of how best to deal with the problem. The following is a statement of the findings :-

NO. OF HOUSES INSPECTED.

197

<u>NO. OF ROOMS</u>	<u>1 Room</u>	<u>2 Room</u>	<u>3 Room</u>	<u>4 Rooms +</u>
	12	89	60	32
<u>WATER SUPPLIES</u>	<u>Without hot Water.</u>	<u>Without Cold Water in House.</u>	<u>Without Piped Hot Or Cold Water in House.</u>	
	160	72	72	
<u>DRAINAGE & SANITATION</u>	<u>Without Sink in House.</u>	<u>Outside W.C'S Only.</u>	<u>With Inside W.C'S</u>	<u>Without Baths.</u>
	76	173	17	170
<u>OTHER AMENITIES</u>	<u>Without Kitchen Or Place to Cook & Prepare or Store Food.</u>	<u>Without Proper Clothes Washing Facilities.</u>	<u>Without Proper Clothes Drying Facilities.</u>	
	167	167	167	

It will be seen from the above table that there are a large number of houses of only two rooms. These are mostly in the form of flats having two rooms in the ground flat and 2 rooms in the upper flat. Common outside toilet and yard, in some cases a common outside tap as water supply situated in the yard. Some have no sinks and water has to be carried into the house and the waste water carried back outside. Clothes drying takes place in back street which impedes traffic. In many cases the houses being of two rooms only cannot be improved as flats owing to restriction at the rear but can quite readily be made into one up and downstairs house.

As a result of the survey the following slum clearance proposal for the next 5 years was agreed.

(1) Estimated houses remaining unfit.	180
(2) Period of years which the Council think necessary for securing the demolition or improvement of all the houses in (1)	10
(3) Number of houses to be demolished in clearance areas.	44
(4) Number of houses to be demolished elsewhere.	25

There are more houses not yet inspected known to have a lack of facilities such as no baths inside toilets etc..and I hope that in time people will take advantage of the grants available to avail themselves of these necessary facilities.

Many houses falling into the unfit category could be improved along with others that are substandard and every inducement is being made to encourage modernisation.

Closing Orders are being made on two roomed flatted accommodation when the tenant is rehoused, so that when the upper or lower flat as the case may be becomes vacant, the two flats can be made into one standard house. This is working out very successfully.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are no common lodging houses situated within the Urban District.

CONVERSION TO WATER CLOSETS.

There were eleven earth closets in the district as at 31st December, 1962. Of these, six were converted to the water carriage system early in 1963, one house was placed under a Closing Order, one was to be converted as part of an Improvement Grant and one was approved for payment under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Of the remaining two, one serves property to be included in a clearance area and the other is situated at a farm cottage on the rural outskirts of the district.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The whole Urban District is satisfactorily sewered and except for the earth closets as previously mentioned in this report, all premises are on the water carriage system.

There are two main outlets to the sea, one at the Harbour and the other off the south-east foreshore. The latter was renewed during the year with 12" cast iron pipe and outlet flap and the capacity of the collecting chamber increased.

As a result of approximately 1" of rain falling over a period of one hour on 4th September, 1962, several streets of houses were flooded in the east end of the town in the vicinity of the harbour. The cloudburst coincided with high tide which prevented the high concentration of storm water in the sewers from being discharged and caused overflow from manholes and gullies in low parts of the harbour area. As the rain eased and the tide ebbed the water receded.

As a result of this abnormal and rare occurrence, it was agreed that the existing 12" sewer from Leazes Street to the sea outfall be renewed in 15" diameter pipes and a storm water overflow be embodied.

CARAVAN SITES.

STAFF		INCOME	EXPENDITURE.
SURVEYOR	PART DUTIES.		
ASSISTANT SURVEYOR & CARAVAN SITES MANAGER.	PART DUTIES.		
TYPIST	PART DUTIES.		
PART TIME WARDENS.	4 ON ROTA.	£10,324. 0. 0.	£3,901. 1. 7.
SURVEYOR'S OUTDOOR STAFF.	DUTIES AS REQUIRED.		
MAINTENANCE	PART BY OUTSIDE CONTRACTORS.		

The year 1962 was a successful year for caravans. It is a valuable asset to the community generally and I look forward to the development of the new site. Apart from the annually rented sites there was a demand by touring caravanists for accommodation for night halts. Some of these night halt caravans extended their stay to 3 and 4 days and sometimes spent the remainder of their holidays at Amble. Temporary sites were also made available to persons wishing to stop a week or two.

Work on the Social Centre Building was completed in August and proved an asset to the site for the remainder of the season. It is anticipated that a licence for music, singing and dancing will be obtained in the forthcoming year which will be of benefit.

A high standard of type and design and general condition of caravan was maintained, which provided admirable holiday accommodation and coupled with the natural amenities that Amble has to offer proved to be popular. The recession in the ship building industry was perhaps responsible for a shorter 'peak period' than in previous years.

The Link. House Farm proposed caravan site received planning consent.

The proposed development will cover approx. $\frac{1}{3}$ of the area (46 acres) of the farm. The farm is to be purchased as a whole and negotiations to purchase cannot proceed without the Minister's consent. Before the Minister's consent to purchase can be obtained the remainder of the farm requires planning consent for development and this has not yet been granted, owing to coal working beneath the surface. It is hoped that acquisition of the farm will take place in the forthcoming year and enable the Council to develop its holiday facilities which are so important to Amble. The volume of work of administration of the sites both in the close and holiday season is considerable and I appreciate the way in which this is tackled by Mr. Nicholson, Miss Gallagher and the other members of the staff who show a pleasant willingness both in duty hours, and off duty hours to give the service required. Mr. Nicholson's success in this respect is perhaps reflected in the income obtained from the site.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES.

Grassed open spaces in housing schemes etc.....were given more attention this year. These grassed areas when regularly cut and maintained, add greatly to the appearance of the schemes and particular areas in which they are situated. With the increasing amount of grassed areas in housing estates, the Links and the proposed caravan site I feel that tractor drive grass cutting machinery will be required to efficiently and economically carry out the work in future. At present one man (highways team) is deployed practically whole time the whole summer on grass cutting.

Two part-time attendants were employed during the year in the Welfare Park to carry out the various duties of maintenance, grass cutting, shrub trimming, care of the gardens, supervision of the tennis courts and the issuing of tickets and collecting of money, locking of gates etc...

The cricket club received planning permission to erect a pavilion at the south west corner of the park. It was also decided that the children's swings be re-sited to a more suitable position at the north west side of the park.

The cricket club cut their own area. Both the cricket club and football club pay £15 per year to the Council for the use of the park.

The tennis courts were fairly well patronised and the park facilities generally enjoyed by many.

STREET CLEANSING AND PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The sweeping of streets and the emptying of gulleys was carried out by the two men employed for this purpose, the main parts of the town were swept daily including Saturday and Sundays. The outlying parts of the town were not covered as often as I would wish owing to the mileage of the streets, footpaths, and back streets being too great a length for the two men employed and the necessity of withdrawing them to carry out duties on rodent control, highways and cleansing work, cleansing of public conveniences, stoking of boilers etc...

The two conveniences were cleansed twice daily and kept as clean as possible. It is regretted that the habits of some members of the public cause inconvenience and temporary discomfort to other members of the public and create unnecessary expense.

It is proposed to erect next year a block of conveniences for the harbour area which will provide a much needed requirement for the many people visiting the harbour and little shore.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

This duty in Amble is carried out by a staff of five, i.e. a chargehand/driver and four carriers. Working on a five day week, the whole town, including earth closets and outlying farms are collected weekly whilst two mornings per week are devoted to trade refuse collection. During sickness or holiday periods, the staff was supplemented by members of the highways team whilst at bank holiday periods and other public holidays, the work was carried out by the withdrawal from their normal duties of the entire highways team.

During the year, a complete survey was made of the town and a report compiled showing the details of routes, delays, access to properties etc...and to ascertain if an increase in establishment was necessary with the gradual increase in properties and the distances to be covered. From the results obtained, action was taken to rid the town of ash boxes, where delays had occurred through refuse being shovelled into "skips" and carried to the vehicle. The decrease in earth closets also contributed in no small measure to a speedier collection and I do not feel that an increase in the number of collectors will be warranted for some time.

Collection is made by a diesel powered 7 cubic yard Karrier Bantam vehicle, whilst the dual purpose Karrier low loader/refuse vehicle (normally used for highway repair work) was brought into use when required.

Refuse disposal throughout the year was carried out at a disused Stone Quarry where a system of controlled tipping is in operation. One full-time attendant was employed to deal with all refuse, including that brought from surrounding areas of the Alnwick Rural District Council together with building and trade refuse. Extensive progress was made during the year and a large area of this deep waterfilled quarry was reclaimed. When filled, an eyesore and a danger spot will have disappeared and plans for its future will add greatly to the attractiveness of the area.

The problem of the disposal of butchers' wastes was brought to a head with the onset of the winter when it was found impossible to manually excavate holes for its disposal. A mechanical excavator was hired and a deep trench excavated thus allowing the weekly disposal of offals to be disposed of, each delivery being covered over with the material excavated.

As the 'life' of the tipping facilities decreases with each load, negotiations took place with the Coal Board for the infilling of an old sand quarry on the sea front which is situated within the administrative area of the Alnwick Rural District Council. Planning application was made to this authority but the application was deferred pending discussions between officials of this Department, Alnwick R.D.C., and the County Planning Department with a view to alternative sites being considered.

The sites considered were the Braids and Coal Board's ground near Hauxley Tip. Owing to the County Planning proposals for the Braids, the Planning Authority undertook to negotiate with the Coal Board for a suitable site.

Waste paper was disposed of by burning and condemned tinned goods were buried.

The nett cost of collection and disposal (at 31st March, 1963) amounted to £4,263 and can be summarised as follows :-

Population Estimated.	Number of Weekly Collections		Method of Collection	Total Cost.
	House	Trade		
4,920	1	1	1 x 7 cu. yard side loading vehicle.	£4,263

COLLECTION & DISPOSAL COSTS.

Total Cost	Number of Premises	Cost per Premise	Cost per Head of Population.	Rate.
£4,263	1732	£2. 9. 3d.	17/4d	1/11½d.

Street lighting is by electricity, and is accomplished by the use of tungsten and mercury vapour lamps and a variety of lanterns. The lanterns in the majority are fixed to the Electricity Board's cable carried poles, some on wall mounted brackets, and some on concrete columns.

During the year there was a revision of the agreement for street lighting charges. The schedules issued by the Board offered lighting seasons of 9 or 12 months duration and burning hours from dusk to midnight or dusk to dawn. It was agreed that the lighting season be of 9 months burning dusk to midnight (279 lamps) and a number (22) pilot lamps burning dusk to dawn.

Total number of Lamps 301 Lamp renewals during the year 325.

Owing to the dangerous condition of many of the steel cable carrying poles, the Electricity Board embarked upon a scheme of dismantling and laying cables underground and as the majority of the street lighting brackets are on these poles a revision of street lighting methods became necessary. Plans and reports were made for (1) Immediate requirements affecting the renewal of 43 lighting points at a cost of £1,747. 0. 0. and (2) a General Improvement Scheme involving the revision, improvement, and renewal of the whole lighting system, taking into consideration the requirements for concrete columns 24 No. 25'0" high having sodium discharge lamps for Class A Lighting 168 No. 15'0" high having tungsten and sodium import for Class B and side street lighting, using where possible existing lanterns at a cost of £7,050.

This will be presented for consideration early in the new year.

New street lighting columns and lanterns were erected in new housing schemes and replacements to a number of damaged columns made.

PETROLEUM ACTS AND REGULATIONS.

All premises were inspected during the year. The assistance and advice of the County Fire Prevention Department was readily available and much appreciated. Licences issued No. 11. Tests Carried out No. 2. all satisfactory.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

206 visits were made by the Inspectors to slaughterhouses during the year for the purpose of meat inspection to give 100% inspection and 23 visits were made to food shops for the inspection of food unfit for human consumption.

Next year it will be compulsory all over the country for all meat to be inspected before leaving the slaughterhouse. I am pleased to record that in Amble owing to the co-operation of the two proprietors concerned this has been carried out for some years.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are two licensed slaughterhouses within the District both of which are privately owned.

The 1st January, 1962 was the appointed day for compliance with the provisions of the Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958 and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1961. Both slaughterhouses fully complied in all respects and credit is due to the owners' for their enthusiasm and willingness to meet all the items required. The premises when completed were inspected by the Minister's Representative. He was very impressed and satisfied and both slaughterhouses were registered.

With effect from the date of registration, the Co-operative Society's output of slaughtered animals was doubled due to their requirements for the Alnwick area being carried out at Amble. This resulted in greater time being devoted to meat inspection although only on rare occasions, holiday periods etc..., was it found necessary to work overtime.

The extra time spent, will, it is anticipated, be compensated under the provisions of the Slaughterhouses (Meat Inspection Grant) Regulations, 1958.

The following table gives figures of animals slaughtered during 1962 within the Urban District.

	Steers.	Heifers.	Cows and Bulls.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Rams & Ewes.	Pigs.
Number Killed.	515	34	7	-	1939	14	30
Number Inspected.	515	34	7	-	1939	14	30
<u>All Diseases Except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</u>							
Whole Carcases Condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	218	8	-	-	6	-	-
<u>Tuberculosis Only.</u>							
Whole Carcase Condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>							
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

The total amount of meat condemned amounted to 16 cwts. 3 qrs. 21 lbs, the majority of which was offal.

For the first time for many years it is pleasing to report that no cases of Tuberculosis or Cysticercosis were encountered during inspections. This of course reflects on the tuberculin attestation policy in relation to marketing of animals although cysticercosis is still prevalent, any cases would be submitted for deep refrigeration treatment (if localised) and generalised cases condemned.

SLAUGHTERMEN.

Seventeen licences to slaughter or stun animals were issued during the year and of these, two required the applicants to carry out slaughtering under supervision.

FOOD PREMISES.

Visits were made to food premises only when time permitted and it is regretted that all premises were not inspected during the year. Any contraventions or deficiencies were brought to the notice of the owner or person in charge and it was not found necessary to institute proceedings for any contravention of the Food Hygiene Regulations. Twenty-three premises were licensed for the storage of pre-packed ice cream intended for sale.

All condemned food is burned or buried at the controlled tip and during the year a total of 2 cwts. of assorted foods were disposed of by this method.

MILK & DAIRIES.

The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations are administered by the County Health Department and all dealers' licences are issued by the County Authority. In the case of new applications being received, the local public health inspector is asked to forward his observations on the suitability of the applicant and his premises. From details supplied by the County Authority, there are ten licensed premises within the district.

Milk sampling is also carried out by the County Health Department and the results of four samples during the year were found to be satisfactory.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS.

There are no public swimming baths within the Urban District.

WATER SUPPLY.

On 1st October, 1962, the complete water undertaking was transferred on negotiated terms to the Newcastle & Gateshead Water Company in accordance with the Ministry's policy of regionalisation of water supplies, the transfer also including the services of one full-time water employee.

Up to this period in the year, water supplies had been maintained by the Council as statutory water undertakers although during August and September it was found most difficult to meet the daily growing demand of the R.A.F. station at Acklington and in mid-September the Water Company agreed to commence supplying the station pending the official take over.

Samples for bacteriological examination were submitted regularly to the Public Health Laboratory and chemical analysis of the water in supply remained unchanged from those of the previous year.

All properties in the district are supplied with mains water although there are still a number of properties without internal water supply except for a standpipe in the yard. These properties are invariably sub-standard and are to be dealt with under Housing or Public Health legislation.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 - 1948.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises. (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted. (5)
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	17	12	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	4	2	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	3	9	-	-
TOTAL	24	23	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

PARTICULARS. (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector. (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector. (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient.	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-			
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	3	3	-	-	-

There are no outworkers within the Urban District.

AGRICULTURE (SAFETY, HEALTH & WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT, 1956.

There are seven farms within the district. Where applicable compliances with the Act were satisfactory.

RODENT CONTROL.

This duty continues to be carried out by the Council under the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. Three employees who have undergone one-day training courses were able to carry out treatments as occasion demanded in addition to their normal duties. On receipt of complaints therefore, treatments were carried out at both private and business premises. No charges were made on business premises.

One treatment only was given to sewers and no evidence of infestation was apparent. This is believed to be due to the small sizes of main sewers and the increasingly heavy flow therein thus allowing little or no areas for infestation to occur.

The Council do not carry out any contractual works in relation to farms and agricultural premises and on inspections made it was noted that stocks of recommended poisons were available for any infestation that may arise.

Membership of the Felton Rabbit Clearance Society was renewed during the year and the Society's operator made visits to rabbit infestations occurring on the Percy Street Allotments.

The following statistics as required by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, show action taken during the twelve months ending 31st December, 1962. (See next page).

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

230 visits were made to premises within the district following the notification of infectious disease by the Medical Officer of Health.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY.				
	Non - Agricultural			(4) Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3)	(5) Agriculture
	(1) Local Authority.	(2) Dwelling Houses (Inc.) (Council) (Houses.)	(3) All Other (Inc.) (Business) (Premises.)		
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	6	1590	119	1715	17
2. Total Number of properties inspected as a result of notification.	-	63	7	70	-
Number of such properties found to be infested by :- COMMON RAT (Minor only)		37	3	40	-
HOUSE MOUSE (Minor only).	-	12	4	16	-
3. Total number of properties inspected in the course of survey under the Act.	-	-	-	-	7
Number of such properties found to be infested by :- COMMON RAT (Minor Only)	-	-	-	-	1
4. Total Number of properties otherwise inspected (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose.	6	521	22	549	4
Number of such properties found to be infested by :- COMMON RAT (Minor only)	2	-	-	2	1
HOUSE MOUSE (Minor only)	-	2	-	2	-
5. Number of infested properties (in Sections 2, 3 & 4.) treated by Local Authority.	2	51	7	60	-
6. Total treatments carried out including re-treatments.		N I L			
7. Number of Notices served under Section 4 of the Act. (a) Treatment.	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Structural Work (i.e. Proofing)	-	-	-	-	-
8 Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a Notice under Section 4 of the Act.	-	-	-	-	-
9 Legal Proceedings.	-	-	-	-	-

Section 1V - Inland Barge Traffic.

There is no inland barge traffic.

Section V - Water Supply.

As from 1st October, 1962, the Newcastle & Gateshead Water Company, supply both the port and shipping from town mains. The water is sold to the Harbour Commissioner's who are responsible for supplying the ships. Supply is carried out by means of hydrants and hosepipes. The hosepipes are kept in the stores belonging to the Harbour Commissioners and flushed before being used. There are no water boats.

Section V1 - Public Health (Ships) Regulations.

1. List of infected areas.

The weekly Epidemiological Report of the World Health Organisation is received by this Authority and copy forwarded to the Customs Officer who receives the declarations of health coming from ports other than excepted Ports. These are then forwarded to the Council Offices.

2. Radio Messages.

Link-up radio telephone through radio station Cullercoats to ship.

3. Notification otherwise than by radio.

Signals received by Coast Guard Station and communicated by telephone to Harbour Master's Office.

4. Mooring Stations.

Should any infectious disease exist on board, the ship is moored to the west jetty and quarantined until the proper steps are taken.

5. Arrangements for :-

(a) Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases.

Isolation for infectious diseases would be provided in Walker Gate Hospital, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

(b) Surveillance and follow up of contacts.

Surveillance and follow up of contacts is carried out by the Medical Officer of Health and Public Health Inspector.

(c) Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other articles.

Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other articles are carried out when required under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector.

Section V11 - Smallpox.

(1) Smallpox cases would be sent by Ambulance to Langley Park Hospital, County Durham. Telephone : Langley Park 214.

(2) Transport would be by ambulance from the Northumberland County Council Ambulance Service.

(3) Smallpox Consultants available.

Dr. W. Minns, Deputy County Medical Officer, County Hall, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Dr. J. Grant, Medical Officer of Health, Greenfield House, Gateshead.

Dr. H. Pearson, Dunston Hill Hospital, Gateshead.

Section V111 - Venereal Disease.

Available facilities for the diagnosis and treatment for venereal diseases at :-

General Hospital - Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
Preston Hospital - North Shields.
22, Stanley Street - Blyth.

Notices are exhibited in the Public Conveniences in the Town.

Section 1X - Cases of notifiable and other infectious diseases.

TABLE D.

No cases of infectious diseases were reported as having occurred on vessels during the voyage.

Section X - Observations on occurrence of malaria.

No cases of malaria have been reported.

Section X1 - Measures against ships suspected of infection with plague.

No cases of suspected plague have been reported.

Section X11 - Measures against rodents.

Vessels inspected showed little or no sign of rodent infestation.

Arrangements available for deratting are traps or poisoning.

TABLE E.

No rats were destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports, there being no evidence of rat infestation on any ships entering Amble Harbour.

TABLE F.

As Amble is not a designated approved Port, this section regarding de-ratting certificates does not apply.

Section X111 - Inspection of ships.

No nuisances were found in vessels inspected.

Section X1V - Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations 1934-1948

An area of the mouth of the River Coquet has been prescribed as a prohibited area for the laying of shell-fish beds or collection therefrom, in accordance with the above regulations. The prohibition has been in force since 19th November, 1946.

Section XV - Medical Inspection of Aliens.

The port is not approved for the landing of aliens.

Section XV1 - Miscellaneous.

The Council own a mortuary which is utilised in making arrangements for the interment of the dead.

JCF McCOLLICK

Medical Officer of Health.

